FDI in education

3571. SHRIDHARAM PALSABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in education allowing foreign universities and institutions in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether allowing FDI in education would hamper the growth of domestic educational institutions; and

(d) if so, the reasons for allowing FDI in education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Government, *vide* Press Note 2 (2000 Series) dated 11.2.2000 of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion) has allowed FDI up to 100%, on the automatic route in the Education Sector, subject to the sectoral rules/regulations as may be applicable.

Reforming higher education

3572. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, with higher education being mainstay of Eleventh Five Year Plan, the University Grants Commission has initiated a slew of measures to reform it;

(b) whether, with Government having approved setting up of 16 new Central Universities, UGC has been roped in by the Ministry to prepare an action plan and also to work out modalities for drafting Acts, Statutes and Ordinances of propsoed universities and had set up a Committee for the purpose;

(c) whether the Committee is at an advanced stage of finalizing its report;

(d) whether UGC has also identified backward districts, where 370 new colleges would be established; and

(e) what are other main features of the measures initiated by UGC in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The University Grants Commission (UGC) is working on a numebr of steps for reforms in higher education. The Xlth Plan proposals of the UGC include mitigation of quality gaps in universities and colleges, revamping of Academic Staff Colleges, strengthening of Inter-University Centres, establishment of Internal Quality Assurance Cells in universities and colleges, academic reforms in universities and colleges, designing of model curriculum, identification of various modes of public-private participation to promote higher education.

(b) and (c) A draft Bill for setting up of new Central Universities has been prepared by an Expert Committee of UGC and furnished to Government.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. An Expert Committee of UGC has prepared a Model Detailed Project Report for setting up of new degree colleges with Cenral-State partnership, in identified educationally backward districts with Gross Enrollment Ratio lower than the national average.

Law on right to education

3573. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is likely to bring forth a law in the near future, guaranteeing the right to education;

(b) if so, whether provision of free and compulsory education for the relevant age group of 6 to 14 years has been mandated in our Constitution as a fundamental right;

(c) whether, even though there are limits to public funding, and there may be temptations to opt for market determined policies on ground of efficiency, education can be left to the market forces only at our peril; and

(d) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) Article 21A of the Constitution makes education a Fundamental Right for children in the age group of 6—14 years by providing that *"the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine".* As per the extant policy, commercialization of elementary education is not permissible and private not-for-profit initiatives are not barred. As the enhanced outlays in education for the Xlth Plan would indicate, the public sector investments would continue to play a substantial role. The Government is committed to facilitate the enactment of an appropriate legislation that would enable the realization of making education a fundamental right as required by the Constitution.

FDI in education

3574. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
DR. T. SUBBARAMIREDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is seriously considering FDI in education;

(b) if so, whether problems are a lot more in non-higher education that in higher education, and we need to look at Government institutions other than IITs;

(c) whether there is a steady deterioration in the quality of these colleges which needs to be focused to bring back quality of these colleges; and

(d) if so, what are the features Government proposes to consider to have FDI in education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Foreign Direct Investment is already allowed